



BALLYMORE KINDY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME!

I would like to start by officially welcoming all our new and existing families to Ballymore Kindy for 2022. The beginning of the Kindy year is always a special time as we settle in, get to know one another, and find a rhythm and flow to our days. It's been no ordinary term though, and I am not sure that any of us could have anticipated the year would start in the way that it did. Given the challenges and disruption to the year so far, I want to extend my thanks to all Ballymore families for your understanding and adaptability throughout the term. I also want to acknowledge the role that both our current Committee and the outgoing Committee played in supporting and guiding the service through each hurdle as it came.

Our first event for the year was our AGM which was held on 24th February, 2022. Thank you to those who came along to support the night. It was great to have the opportunity to meet as a community, reflect on the past year and elect a Parent Management Committee for 2022. We are pleased to say that we have successfully filled all positions on the Parent Management Committee for 2022. I would like to thank all the parents who have taken on committee positions for the year. Without your valuable time and effort, we cannot continue to run as a not-for-profit community centre, so your involvement is very much appreciated.

Our first play in the park was held on Sunday 27th March, with many families in attendance. We were pleased that the weather was kind to us, and the event was able to go ahead. I think it is fair to say that Frew Park was a hit among the Kindy children, with lots of challenges to attempt and conquer. We look forward to many other opportunities to come together as a community over the year.

Early in Term 2 I will offer opportunities for one-on-one interviews with parents. This is an opportunity for me to talk with parents about their child's individual experiences at kindy in this first part of the year. Sharing information with home helps us to know your child better and to plan an appropriate educational program for individual children within the context of a group setting.

We have genuinely enjoyed getting to know the Kindy children over the term and can see their interests and strengths emerge as they become more familiar and comfortable within the Kindy setting. The children are an important part of shaping our curriculum and we offer many opportunities across the day for children to contribute to the curriculum and plan for their learning. In addition to this, we also draw on both the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines (QKLG) and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) to inform our decision making and program planning. Both frameworks strongly reflect the value of play based education for children based in warm and responsive relationships with adults and other children. As a quick and brief introduction, here are some of the principles that influence our programs: The Early Years Learning Framework describes childhood as a time of belonging, being and becoming.

- **Belonging** is the basis for living a fulfilling life. Children feel they belong because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place.
- **Being** is about living here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just 'be' — time to play, try new things and have fun.
- **Becoming** is about the learning and development that young children experience. Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become.

Belonging, Being and Becoming are woven throughout our curriculum and will be reflected in the way that we plan for, teach, and engage with children across the year.

It feels as though we have reached the end of Term 1 just as the ball got rolling! Fortunately, we have three more terms ahead of us to look forward to. We are hopeful that Term 2 will be smooth sailing and we are looking forward to the ideas and thinking that the children will bring.

We wish all families, a safe and relaxed time over the break.

Emily

President's Report



Hi Everyone,

May I extend a very warm welcome to all Ballymore Kindy families of 2022. Despite being only three months in, 2022 is shaping up to be another eventful year, with widely circulating COVID19 and devastating floods ensuring a challenging start to the year. These events have meant delayed commencement times and disruptions to the delivery of services but in true Ballymore Kindy fashion, this has been met by parents, children, and staff alike with understanding, flexibility, and resilience. This year, we are blessed to have the commencement of many new families which brings the promise of vitality and growth to the kindy, as well as returning families which provides the kindy with a sense of continuity.

In February, the AGM was held and the new committee for 2022 elected. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee for the excellent job they performed last year which saw them overseeing the appointment of Emily Clark, our wonderful Director here at Ballymore Kindy, in Term 4. Emily's commencement in the Director role promises to be a new chapter in the Ballymore Kindy story and we are all eager to see the exciting direction the kindy is steered in under her very capable leadership. I would also like to make special mention of the caretaking duties the outgoing committee performed while the new committee was being established and transitioning into their roles. With delayed commencement times and unexpected flooding to contend with, they certainly needed to continue working well into 2022.

In March, the new committee for 2022 had their first meeting and this was able to take place face-to-face in the kindy, maskless, and in a dry space... things that we no longer take for granted. The time was used as an opportunity to orient ourselves to the kindy and its history, but also to dream of the future we would like for our children in this special place. This year's committee members are: Suzi George, President (Yasmin and Lulu, Group 1), Dean Fletcher, Secretary (Franke, Group 1), Kristen Munro, Treasurer (Louis, Group 2), Kate Hamilton, Working Bee Coordinator (Charlie, Group 2), Sarah Ramsay, Workplace Health and Safety (Nina, Group 1), Tammy Joynson, Promotions (Edgar, Group 1), and Talia Seric-Abram, Social (Arlo, Group 2). One way of viewing the committee is as a representation of the parent voice and it is in this spirit that we encourage parents to chat to us about any kindy-related issues that come to mind, whether it be processes that are working well or inspired ideas for improvement. Parents are also welcome to attend the committee meetings, of which there will be two per term, and the dates of these will be made available on the noticeboard.

We have two events coming up, which are always wonderful opportunities for social connection. By the time this newsletter has been sent, we would have had our first family play in the park. These plays

allow the children to develop their relationships in a different setting, allowing deeper and different connections to be built. It is also a lovely opportunity for parents to connect away from the busyness of the drop-off/pick-up time. There is also a working bee scheduled for the morning of Saturday 23 April, which is another great way to meet new parents and contribute to the maintenance of the beautiful green space we are so blessed to have for our children.

The kindergarten year is a special one, a moment in time just before the rigors of schooling begin. We are incredibly fortunate to be able to bear witness to our children's learning and play journey and also that we have such experienced educators to guide our children through this. So without further ado, I invite you all to watch with wonder the journey that your children are on this year, as their little imaginations are allowed to thrive in an environment that nurtures their natural curiosity, and dreaming and exploration flourish.

I wish you all a wonderful year ahead and look forward to spending time with you over the coming months.

Suzi George
President, 2022

Settling In

Overall, it has been encouraging to see the children eager to arrive at Kindy each morning. It is easy for us as adults to underestimate the impact of change on children. While Kindy is a special place for children and play, it is important to remember that there are still so many things that the children need to adjust to, including:

- new routines and expectations
- new people (it takes time to remember 22 new names, let alone getting to know the individual personalities too)
- being away from families and familiar environments
- adapting to being part of a group of 22 children – this means having to adapt to group demands which may differ from individual desires.

This is a major beginning in a young child's life with new people, new spaces, and new routines to become familiar with. As we all know, with any new achievement, it comes at an individual rate, so please don't be tempted to compare with how other children are settling in and don't be alarmed if your child is still finding this a challenge at times. For some children, it can take a little while before they feel a sense of belonging in a new environment and for some people, new places can be unsettling. A strong focus underpinning our teaching and learning goals is to help each child to develop a sense of belonging and identity in their new kindy class. We work closely with families and the children to build this sense of belonging, which will gradually help them to feel more comfortable and confident within the Kindy setting. If you have any concerns about how your child is settling in, please speak with the staff so that we can work with you to develop a plan.

Remember that it is normal for children to find separation challenging and we will always let you know if your child does not settle during the day. We can reassure you that even though some goodbyes have been difficult, our days at Kindy are full of smiles, keen exploration, and positive connection.

Donations

At Ballymore Kindy we aim to take a sustainable approach to resources wherever possible and safe to do so. We love to explore creative processes using materials that would have otherwise gone to waste or that are naturally found in nature.

If you, your workplace, or someone you know have by-products such as paper, wooden offcuts, tiles, stones, carpet squares, PVC piping or other 'loose parts' that are no longer needed or useful, we will likely find a good use for them.

Loose parts are materials that have no specific set of directions or a 'script' for how they are used. Loose parts take on many forms and can be used by children in any number of ways. We love them because they are open ended, have endless play possibilities and their uniqueness encourages creativity and problem solving. If you know of some 'loose parts', but are unsure if Kindy would find them useful, please speak with a staff member for guidance.



As many of you will know by the creations that head home each afternoon, we are always in need of the following:

- Cardboard boxes – preferably smaller in size (e.g no bigger than a muesli bar box or cereal box) Please flatten the boxes (where possible) before bringing them in. Please do not send boxes that have contained products with nuts.
- Cardboard tubes.
- Collage materials – bottle tops, cardboard, interesting papers, material, tape or ribbon.
- Wooden offcuts – we are building a stockpile so that we can introduce woodwork to the children later in the year.
- Paper – wrapping paper, old cards, pieces of cardboard, tissue paper, note pads, scrap paper – all types and sizes of paper!
- Kitchen utensils and containers – if you are cleaning out the Tupperware drawer and aren't sure where to send all the containers whose lids have mysteriously disappeared – we will gladly accept them. We love using containers and utensils of all shapes and sizes for water play, sand play and much more.
- Baskets or plant pots

REMINDERS

- **Signing in and out** - Under National Regulations, it is essential that your child is signed in, and out, each day. Our sign-in sheet is also used as our record of attendance when we hold our fire drills so having everyone recorded is imperative.
- **Pick up time** – This is a busy time of day, with lots of people to keep track of. We aim to end our day together as a group in a calm way with stories, puzzles and games and support a smooth transition by asking that the children remain with the teacher on the mat while they wait for families to arrive. In the interest of children's safety, we ask all parents to be very vigilant as they come in and out of the front gate and move through the room. Please ensure that your child always remains with you and that they are moving through the space in a calm way to minimise the disruption to the children who remain on the mat and to help us ensure everyone gets home safely.
- **Parking** – Please remember to reverse your cars in when parking at kindy – and please let anyone else know who may be doing drop-off and/or pick-up. While we have no control over other people who may park in this area, reverse parking helps in keeping children safe as they move through the area.
- **Allergies** – We do have children attending Kindy who are anaphylactic to nuts. Please ensure that all food that comes to Kindy is nut free. We also have children with allergies to eggs and fish – while you are welcome to pack eggs and fish in lunch boxes, please inform a teacher if you do so as this will help us in minimising the risk of contact.
- **Washing hands on arrival** - To assist in maintaining health and safety of everyone at kindy, please remind your child to wash their hands as they arrive at, and leave, the kindy each day and please check regularly that your child's washer is NOT touching the one below.

KEY DATES

- Working Bee 23rd April 2022
- Term 2: Tuesday 19th April to Friday 24th June
- Term 3: Monday 11th July to Friday 16th September
- Term 4: Tuesday 4th October to Friday 9th December
- Open Day: Saturday 14th May 9am to 11am



Bumble Bee Playgroup

Free Coffee
for the
Opening

St Ambrose's Newmarket

Wednesday 20 April 2022
9:00AM - 10:30AM
23 Davidson Street, Newmarket QLD 4051

Please join us every Wednesday morning for a play, as well as group story/music time and messy play! 0-5 Years
For more information contact: bubblebees@bne.catholic.edu.au



School Holiday possibilities and Adventures!

- ❖ Visit GOMA – the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art is a great exhibition. They are also running APT10 Kids Outdoors Guided walking tour which explores public art in Brisbane streets and Laneways.
- ❖ Check out the many low cost or free activities provided by the Brisbane City Council. Some highlights are: Bluey storytime at Grange Library (5th April 10:30-11:30); Kids Circus Mini Festival at Seven Hills (6th April 10:00) and the Family STEM night at Chermside Library (14th April 4:00). For more information check out the Brisbane City Council website.
[Brisbane school holidays: Bounce into these free and low-cost activities this Easter | Brisbane City Council](#)
- ❖ Visit Roma Street Parklands
- ❖ Visit the Boondall Wetlands Environment centre and talk a walk around the mangroves
- ❖ Children and parents can explore the Hide 'n' Seek Children's Trail set in the heart of the shady Exotic Rainforest in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Cootha

We look forward to hearing from the children after the holidays about all the adventures they enjoyed during the Easter Holidays!